

Implications for the Action Agenda from the Puget Sound Science Update
PRELIMINARY Scoping Document
June 2, 2010

Owner: David Dicks and Gerry O’Keefe, PSP policy staff, and Science Panel (w/ Puget Sound Science Update author teams)

Audience: The primary audience is policy/decision makers: Leadership Council; Ecosystem Coordination Board; Governor and Legislators; federal and state caucus; Action Agenda implementers and stakeholders; non-governmental organizations. Additional audiences include the Puget Sound science community, to inform their approach to developing science programs and projects to influence or inform the recovery of Puget Sound, and the media.

Product Description:

- @10 pages
- Scope and focus questions developed by PSP policy staff in conjunction with the Science Panel
- Science Panel develops answers to the focus questions, based on the content from the Science Update

Purposes:

- Distill the fundamental and timely inputs of the Update for the Action Agenda, and facilitate their incorporation into the policy dialog guiding implementation, priority setting, distribution of resources, work planning, and adaptation related to the Action Agenda;
- inform the development of the scope of the 2011-2012 assessment of Action Agenda effectiveness;
- show how science is being incorporated into the adaptation of the Action Agenda strategies to ensure their effectiveness;
- provide a model for incorporating future science products into policy-making

Development and Communication Strategy and Timeline:

1. PSP policy staff and Science Panel: prepare the document scope and questions, gather input from additional constructive and influential parties: May-June
2. PSP policy staff: vet the document scope and questions with the Leadership Council and Ecosystem Coordination Board; finalize the scope and questions: July
3. Science Panel: develop draft addressing the questions; preview a full draft and make improvements for clarity and focus: July-September
4. PSP policy staff and Science Panel: share the final draft through briefings with short key messages to support clear understanding among affected and interested parties: September-October

Example Questions the Document Could Address Based on the Update:

- What is a scientifically credible framework for characterizing and considering the certainty of the scientific basis provided by the Update for policy actions supporting Puget Sound recovery?

- What are the areas of greatest scientific certainty that pertain to the recovery of Puget Sound and the scope of the Action Agenda? What are the areas of greatest scientific uncertainty?
- What are options for proceeding with recovery actions in light of the certainties and uncertainties? What is the technical feasibility of these options? What are the risks associated with these options, and the probability that these risks will be realized under the current approach to recovery?
- What areas of scientific uncertainty are the most important to address to guide future adaptation and implementation of Action Agenda strategies?
- Relative to the degree to which they are reflected in the Action Agenda and their importance and urgency related to Puget Sound recovery, what scientific factors should be reassessed (i.e., because they are understood to be more or less influential) or newly incorporated?
- What are scientifically credible approaches to refining our understanding of and approach to defining time-bound, measurable goals for the recovery of Puget Sound, and interim steps toward achieving such goals?
- How should the Update product evolve and be improved to better link science to policy questions influencing identification, implementation, prioritization and adaptation of Action Agenda strategies?